

P R E F A C E .

The World's Columbian Exposition was the cause of bringing together representatives of many departments of human industry from nearly every section of the globe. A very important feature of its organization was a World's Congress Auxiliary, of which Hon. C. C. Bonney was president. Through the medium of this bureau, and upon its invitation, a number of persons connected with the fishery interests availed themselves of the opportunity to organize a congress for the discussion of the various subjects relating thereto, which met October 16, 1893, and continued in session for four days, delegates from many countries being present. Its success far exceeded the anticipations of its promoters. Papers were read on various fishery topics, eliciting in many cases considerable debate. As was expected, the same subject gave rise to the expression of widely divergent views, particularly as to some phases of the commercial fisheries, which clearly demonstrated that a fair conclusion on any of the subjects discussed can be reached only after a careful consideration of all the views presented. Indeed, many earnest students of the fisheries are cautious in expressing positive convictions on some of the subjects in controversy, owing to inadequate knowledge on many points.

The papers here presented, being the views of representative men qualified by experience and study to speak upon the subjects treated, must necessarily be of great practical worth. In giving them in this form the U. S. Fish Commission does so with the idea of furnishing the general public much valuable information concerning the fishery industry, and not for the purpose of indorsing or disapproving the opinions expressed.

MARSHALL McDONALD,
Commissioner.